

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 INRE-00

INR-07 CIAE-00 OCL-00 OC-05 SS-15 PM-03 NSC-05 DODE-00

SAJ-01 SAB-01 NEA-09 IO-10 OPR-01 A-01 SY-04 /081 W

----- 000964

O 211450Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3206

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR IMMEDIATE

COMIDEASTFOR IMMEDIATE

NAVCOMMU ASMARA IMMEDIATE

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI IMMEDIATE

DIRNSA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0249

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, ET

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT OF TODAY'S MILITARY ACTION OUTSIDE ASMARA

REF ASMARA 247

1. THERE FOLLOWS A JOINT ASSESSMENT OF TODAY'S ACTION PREPARED
BY SENIOR MAAG ADVISOR (EUCOM REP), CINCUSNAVEUR REP, AND CONGEN.

2. FRIDAY, 21 FEB 75, 2D DIVISION CONDUCTED A CLEARING OPERATION
WEST OF ASMARA IN THE VICINITY OF THE VILLAGE OF AZZECA. THE
OPERATION WAS INITIATED AS A RESULT OF INTELLIGENCE REPORTS
INDICATING INSURGENT ELEMENTS OF UNKNOWN SIZE HAVE MOVED INTO
THE AREA DURING THE NIGHT OF 20-21 FEB 75. THE DIVISION OBJECTIVE
APPARENTLY WAS TO PRE-EMPT ANY INSURGENT ATTACK FROM THAT AREA
AND TO DENY THEM THE USE OF THE VILLAGE. ONE BATTERY OF 105MM
HOWITZERS SUPPORTED THE OPERATION FROM POSITIONS AT THE EDGE
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OF ASMARA NEAR TRACT TX. IN ADDITION, FOUR F86 SORTIES WERE FLOWN

IN SUPPORT OF THE GROUND UNITS. FOLLOWING IS A DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION AS OBSERVED BY USNAVCOMMUN PERSONNEL AT TRACT B.

3. FROM THE ROOF OF TRACT "B" WAREHOUSE A CLEAR VIEW OF THE VILLAGE OF AZZECA WAS OBTAINED THROUGH 10X50, 20X50, 8X30, BINOCULARS FROM 1100L UNTIL 1300L. THE TROOPS WERE TRANSPORTED IN TWO GROUPS OF TWO AND A HALF TON TRUCKS; ONE GROUP ON SOUTH SIDE OF VILLAGE; THE OTHER ON EAST SIDE AND AROUND TO NORTH AND OUT OF SIGHT. THE SOUTH GROUP CONSISTED OF FIFTEEN TRUCKS AND TWO JEEPS. THIS GROUP DISMOUNTED AT THE SW CORNER AND SPREAD INTO THE VILLAGE FIRING THEIR WEAPONS AT FREQUENT INTERVALS. THE SOUTHERN GROUP RETURNED TO THEIR TRUCKS AT ABOUT 1215L AND PROCEEDED ALONG THE SOUTH END OF THE VILLAGE TO THE EAST END WHERE THE LAST TWO TRUCKS STOPPED AND THEIR TROOPS PROCEEDED INTO THE VILLAGE FOR APPROX 20 MINUTES. THE REMAINDER CONVOYED TO A POINT ABOUT 1.5 MILES EAST OF THE VILLAGE WHERE LATER JOINED BY THOSE LAST TWO TROOPS. DURING ALL ABOVE THE HOWITZERS WERE FIRING SALVOS INTO NE SECTION OF VILLAGE AND TO NORTH BEYOND VILLAGE.

4. AT 1215 TWO F-86 WITH CAMOUFLAGE PAINT JOBS TOOK OFF FROM ASMARA AIRPORT AND MADE ONE EACH PASS BOMBING THE NORTHERN SIDE OF VILLAGE THEN MADE FIVE OR SIX STRAFING RUNS IN ALL PARTS OF VILLAGE. MOST IMPACTS IN DETILADE ON NORTH SIDE OF VILLAGE BUT SMOKE AND DUST VISIBLE ABOVE RIDGELINE IN VILLAGE. AT 1315 THE TWO F-86 REPEATED ALL THE ABOVE IN SAME LOCALES AND TARGET AREAS.

5. BY 211700 FEB THE OPERATION APPARENTLY HAD TERMINATED AS THE SUPPORTING ARTILLERY HAD WITHDRAWN AND THE SOUND OF GUNFIRE HAD DIED OUT. THE SUCCESS OF THE OPERATION IS UNKNOWN. THERE DID NOT SEEM TO BE ANY OPPOSITION TO THE DIVISION SWEEP AND NO PEOPLE WERE OBSERVED IN THE VILLAGE.

6. HOWEVER, CONTINUING AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AND ARTILLERY AND/OR MORTAR FIRE OUTSIDE ASMARA CAN BE HEARD AT CONGEN COMPOUND. DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE EXACT LOCATION THIS FIRE.
SHERRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ASMARA00249
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750062-0921
From: ASMARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750225/aaaaawdm.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ASMARA 247
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASSESSMENT OF TODAY'S MILITARY ACTION OUTSIDE ASMARA
TAGS: PINS, ET
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006